

IF THESE BRICKS COULD SPEAK..

What would they say about Harvard? What would they say about you?



The red bricks that make up Harvard's built environment have witnessed centuries of personal and public history, from individual transformation to societal upheaval. Some of the events that take place in our shared halls enter public consciousness and settle into the historical record; others live on only in private memory. We invite you to personalize the brick before you in whatever way you wish—with text, designs, etc.—making visible the experiences, ideas, or events that have animated the space(s) you inhabit and have defined what Harvard means to you. You could equally take this as an invitation to express your own identity, symbolizing your presence and the mark you have made—or the legacy you hope to leave—on Harvard.

Consider the following questions as starting points:

- How should we remember Harvard? What should we remember about Harvard?
- How do you want Harvard to remember you?
- How has Harvard shaped you? How have you shaped Harvard?
- What do you want to preserve from this moment in time?

DO

- Use your fingers or any of the provided carving tools/stamps
- Use your own found materials as stencils/carving tools, or objects you've brought to make impressions (as long as you check with the student supervisor first)
- Write your name somewhere (only if you want to - anonymity is your choice)
- Carve thick lines (lighter/thinner ones may not be as legible)
- Be respectful of the community (no slurs or hate speech)

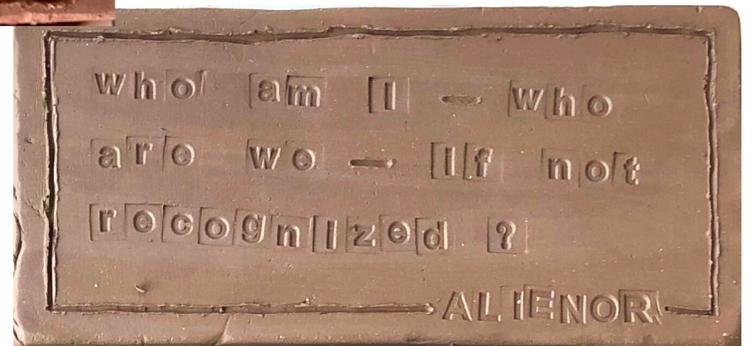
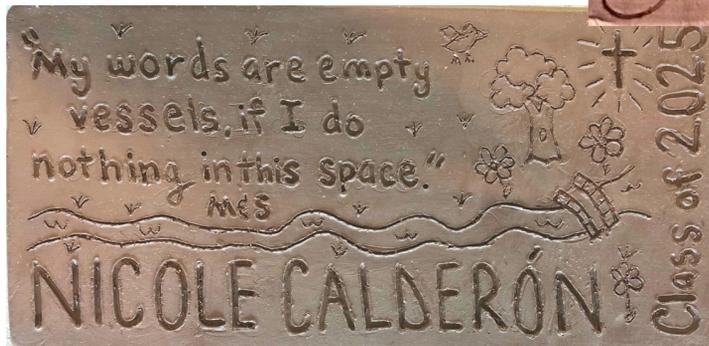
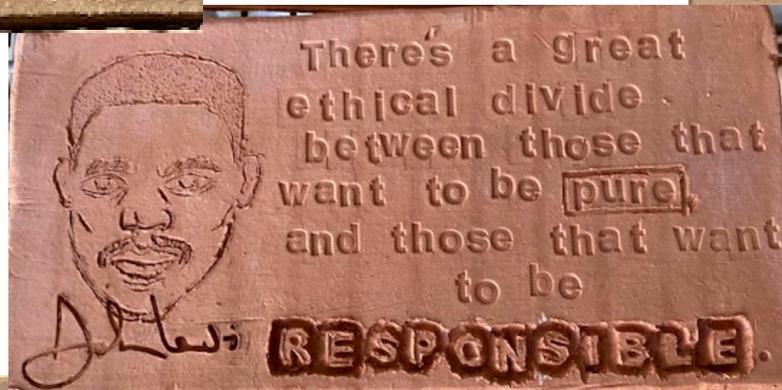
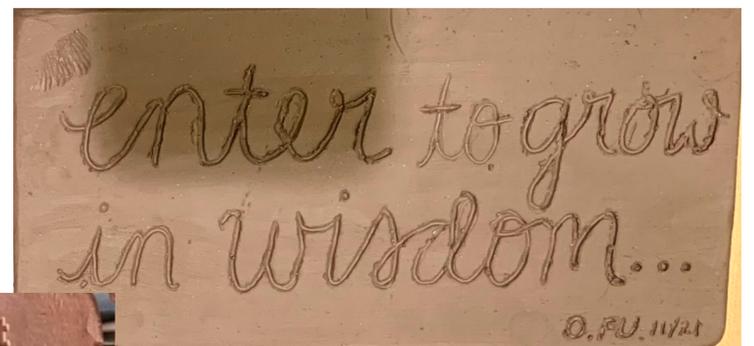
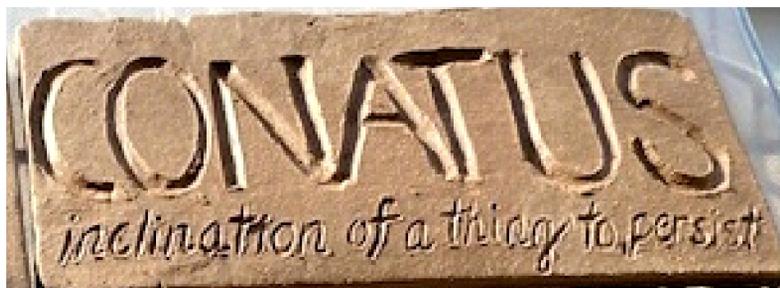
DON'T

- Poke holes through the brick
- Deform the shape of the brick
- Make deep handprints or fingerprints

EXAMPLES

Some general examples of what you could carve into your brick:

- A quote, phrase, or question that has shaped you and/or your Harvard experience
- A confession
- Song lyrics
- A sketch of a meaningful space on campus
- A piece of significant information about Harvard (e.g. statistic, date, detail)



You can also look to these specific examples that students have provided for inspiration:

- "I would write 'BOTH AND' in big block letters (I first heard this phrase in a Harvard class that introduced me to the framework of intersectionality and I've carried it with me throughout my academic career). Inside the block letters, I'd draw symbols representing the various identities I simultaneously hold (i.e. the female gender symbol, a Canadian maple leaf, the Quincy shield)"
- "I'm thinking of carving the question 'Are you okay?' or 'Call your mom' into my brick because if these walls could talk, I'd want them to check in on us and remind us of what's important"
- "I'd write the names of the people in my blocking group, and the question 'does this spark joy?' because it's a simple but meaningful question I use to approach how I spend my time on campus"
- "I'd carve 'Otium,' a Latin abstract noun that reflects the scholarly leisure that I try to build into my schedule"
- "I want to carve: '\$5.6 MILLION - the total amount of Harvard's disclosed endowment invested in fossil fuels before 2021'"
- "On my brick, I will put the the link to a Crimson op-ed I wrote about sexual harassment on campus, and the link to ourharvardcandobetter.org"